

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-80 are pending in this application. Claims 4-10, 14-16, 29, 33-40, 42 and 43 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 32 are amended. Support for the amendment can be found, for example, in the original claims. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application based upon the above amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance, for the reasons discussed therein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration, as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary; and (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1 and 32 are allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the §112, second paragraph rejection as set forth in the Office Action.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 11-13, 17-28, 30-32, 41 and 44-80 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 32 are amended in light of the Examiner's comments.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Rejoinder

Rejoinder of withdrawn claims 4-10, 14-16, 29, 33-40, 42 and 43 is respectfully requested. Claims 4-10, 14-16, 29 require all the features of claim 1 and, thus, should be rejoined upon allowance of claim 1. Claims 33-40, 42 and 43 require all the features of claim 32 and, thus, should be rejoined upon allowance of claim 32. Because claims 1 and 32 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and rejoinder, examination, and allowance of claims 4-10, 14-16, 29, 33-40, 42 and 43 are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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